



Basic Video Vocabulary

Establishing shot	First shot, Opening take. Is used at the beginning of a scene to introduce a frame of action: location, daytime, actors, etc. Generally a long shot to give the viewer an overview about the scene.
Video vs. Film	Don't confound these two: film is analogue and video is digital. A film image results of a photo-chemical process on a light-sensitive film strip. The video image consists of millions of little coloured dots (pixels).
Lens aperture	The lens aperture decides about how much light enters the camera. If you have your lens wide open, you will get a bright picture – if you keep your lens close, all you will see is darkness.
Shutter speed = Exposure time	The shutter decides how many pictures are taken per second. If you take many pictures per second, less light is available for each image.
CCD	The little light chip that sits inside of digital cameras and whose task it is to capture the light that passes through the lens and to transform it into digital information. Modern camcorders have three of them: one for each primary colour.
Focus	Everything that is “in focus” will be clearly visible with sharp edges. You can let the camera decide which part of the picture will be in focus (“auto focus”) or can do the work on your own. A focus ring is installed to precisely adjust the intended focal distance.
Optical or Digital Zoom	Something the human eye cannot execute: the zoom. It changes the scale of your image, using one of two different techniques. The optical zoom does the effect by the system of lenses inside of your camera. The digital zoom is used only when the lenses cannot be displaced any further. It always results in a quality degradation.
Frame - Take – Scene - Sequence	<p>A frame is one still image. European Television shows 25 images per second to create the illusion of movement.</p> <p>A take (= a shot) is a unit from one cut to another one.</p> <p>A scene is a series of takes, that are usually linked by the same location, the same actors or cover one time period.</p> <p>A sequence is composed of several scenes that form one narrative unit (a chase sequence, trip to the coast, etc.)</p>